

of the Virginia House of Burgesses and of the Continental Congress. In spite of this experience, however, he was fully aware of his lack of acquaintance with parliamentary procedure. He applied to his old preceptor, Mr. Wythe, for such parliamentary rules as he had committed to paper, but Mr. Wythe had none, and he was obliged to depend upon a commonplace-book on the proceedings of deliberative bodies, compiled while he was a student and practitioner of law. This, perfected by his experience in the Senate, grew into "Jefferson's Manual of Parliamentary Law."

The President's speech at the opening of Congress met Jefferson's unequivocal condemnation. He became convinced that Adams was bent on forcing the country into a war with France, and from this time forth his whole attention was centered in opposing the policy of the Government. His opposition, of course, acquired preponderating importance from his leadership of his party, and from his official station as Vice-President. The party had got its bearings by this time, and had developed a spirit which brought with it the almost inevitable estrangement of friends. This Jefferson deprecated most honestly. He wrote to E. Rutledge, June, 1797: "The passions are too high at present to be cooled in a day. You and I have formerly seen warm debates and high political passions. But gentlemen of different politics would then speak to each other, and separate the business of the Senate from that of society. It is not so now. Men who have been intimate all their lives cross the street to avoid meeting and turn their heads another way, lest they should be obliged to touch their hats. This may do for young men with whom passion is enjoyment. But it is afflicting to peaceable minds. Tranquillity is the old man's milk. I go to enjoy it in a few days, and to exchange the roar and tumult of bulls and bears for the prattle of my grandchildren and senile rest."

When Congress reassembled in November, he was not present at the opening. He was never present when the President's speeches were delivered to Congress. He did not care to lend by his presence approval to the formal and fulsome replies